

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORT FOR THE  
YEAR 1938.

TO the Chairman and Members of the Alsager Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to present my annual Report for 1938.

A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA	2241 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of the Resident population in 1938	3013
Census (1931)	2852
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to the Rate Books.	941
Rateable Value.	£17,121.
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£65.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND OCCUPATIONS OF THE INHABITANTS.

There are no industries of any importance carried on within the area, which is chiefly agricultural.

Occupations include workers in pottery, farmers, railway workers and miners and it is a residential district for the Potteries and Crewe.

The houses are scattered. There are no slum areas or clearance areas. Under the Housing Act 1936, the survey taken has revealed that overcrowding is non-existent.

EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT:

According to Labour Exchange figures, the present state of unemployment in the District is as follows:-

<u>Age 16-65.</u>	<u>Wholly Unemployed.</u>	<u>Temporarily stopped.</u>
MEN	24	7
WOMEN	5	5

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	TOTAL	M.	F.
Live Births	40	22	18
Legitimate	39	21	18
Illegitimate	1	1	0

Birth rate 13.2 per 1,000 inhabitants.

Still-births	4	3	1
Legitimate	3.		
Illegitimate	1.		



<u>DEATHS.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Transferable deaths from outside the area. Returns to date.	3	2	1
Within the area.	25	15	10

Total deaths 28.

Death Rate. 9.2 per 1000 inhabitants.

Deaths from puerperal sepsis	0
Other puerperal causes.	0
Deaths of infants under 1 year.	1
Deaths from measles, whooping cough or infantile	
Diarrhrea (under 2 years)	0

There have been no causes of sickness (except an epidemic of diphtheria during July, August and September) or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the year. Nor has any condition of occupation or environment appear to have had a prejudicial effect on Health.

#### AGES AT DEATH

Under 1 year	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1 (7 months)
1 - 20	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1 (5 years)
20 - 30	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
30 - 40	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
40 - 50	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
50 - 60	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
60 - 70	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
70 - 80	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	
Over 80	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	
Over 90	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	
										<u>28</u>

#### CAUSES OF DEATH

Heart Disease.	8
Senility	5
Lung Disease.	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	4
Pneumonia	1
Cancer	5
Accident	1
Meningitis	1
Diabetes	1
Asphyxia	1
	<u>28</u>

TOTAL 28

#### B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

##### 1. Public Health Officers for the Authority.

1. Medical Officer of Health.
2. Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (combined office).

These are both part-time officers and have held office for 17 years and 31 years respectively.

There is a part-time temporary District Medical Officer (Public Assistance).

There is no Public Vaccinator resident in the area.





2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The usual arrangements are in force. The Pathological Department of the Royal Infirmary, Chester is available for all forms of bacteriological examination.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

There is no Ambulance kept in the District but a motor Ambulance can be obtained without delay from neighbouring Authorities, such as the Urban District of Sandbach, The Boroughs of Crewe or Newcastle or the City of Stoke-on-Trent.

The Nursing Fund have an arrangement with the Sandbach motor ambulance whereas for the sum of £2 per annum, they supply vouchers up to that amount for the conveyance of poor patients at a cheaper rate.

(c) Nursing in the home.

There has been no change in the arrangements in the area for general nursing. The salary of the part-time District Nurse is maintained by public subscriptions to the Alsager Sick Nursing Fund, which is affiliated with the County Association and is administered by a Committee of your Council. During the absence of the Nurse through illness during the year, her place was taken by Nurse Piggin.

There are no arrangements for nursing infectious diseases and none are required as the patients are removed to Congleton Isolation Hospital, unless private isolation can be provided.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

These are as mentioned in previous reports.

The Infant Welfare Centre, held at Alsager every two weeks has been well attended and has proved a useful addition to the Health Services of the area.

(e) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

Subsidized by the Sanitary Authority or by the County Council.

1. Fever. The West Heath Sanatorium near Congleton. Accommodation for infectious diseases is sufficient and arrangements quite satisfactory.

2. Small-pox. The Infirmary, Arclid. (not opened at present)

3. Tuberculosis. (1) The Cheshire Joint Sanatorium, near Market Drayton.  
(2) The Convalescent Colony at Wrenbury Hall.

4. Orthopaedic. An orthopaedic centre is held at the Old Railway Hospital, Crewe every Monday to deal with these cases at which an orthopaedic specialist attends at intervals. He will arrange for special treatment when necessary. This is provided by the County Council.

Hospital treatment at the North Staffs. Royal Infirmary and the Cripples Aid Society Hospital is also available.

5. Mental Disease. The County Mental Hospital at Parkside, Macclesfield.

6. There is no maternity Hospital for the District. Cases of



puerperal fever are received by the North Staffs Royal Infirmary and provision for specialist and hospital services is made for them under the County Council Scheme. Provision may also be made by the County Council for certain maternity cases to be received into the Linden Grange Maternity Hospital, Crewe.

7. The North Staffs. Royal Infirmary provides all other forms of Hospital treatment and is subscribed to by voluntary contribution from the District.

Midwifery Services.

A maternity nurse has been appointed by the County Council to provide domiciliary service in the District, in pursuance of the Midwives Act 1936.

She resides within the Urban District of Alsager.

MORTUARY.

Arrangements have been made, where post-mortem examinations have been ordered, for Messrs. Hilditch & Son of Sandbach to convey the bodies from Alsager to Arclid Mortuary by motor hearse at a charge of 25/- for each completed journey. Any assistance required other than that of the driver to be an additional fee not exceeding 10/-.

The County Council and the Coroner have approved the arrangement and the charges.

Further arrangements have been made with the Guardians Committee for the taking of bodies to the Mortuary at Arclid in cases of fatal accidents occurring in the Alsager District.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER: The Audley Road pumping station has yielded a satisfactory supply of water. There appears to be no diminution of the supply but the No. 1 Pump has failed several times to produce the guaranteed quantity of water through some mechanical defect which has not yet been traced. The makers are now investigating the problem.

A Bacteriological examination of water taken in November was satisfactory. The Analyst reports:

No. 1. Water of sound bacteriological quality and wholesome potability.

No. 2. To all intents and purposes - a sterile water.

thus confirming the view that the quality is standardised.

The filtration and softening plants have again proved efficient and satisfactory and water is supplied to all consumers softened to approximately  $8\frac{1}{2}$  degrees of hardness.

Meter connections were made to the following premises:-

Heath End Farm (M. Tomkinson).  
Woodside, Crewe Road. (P. Geraghty).

A WATER INCIDENT.

Complaints were received from the owners of four detached houses which are situated on a high level in Lawton Road that they were not receiving an adequate supply of water at certain periods of the day, generally between 8 - 11 am owing to the lack of pressure. This was investigated and found to be true and the sanitary inspector reported that a direct connection to the service tank with the household supply





taken therefrom would have remedied the deficiency.

This the owners refused to do stating that they thought that the Council should do this themselves. To assist matters the Council put in a sluice valve and fed the houses at a lower level through a bye-pass with the idea of controlling their supply. This did not prove successful and the Congleton Rural District Council were approached to see if they could give a supply.

They were unable to do this and the owners complained to the Minister of Health, who upon receipt of the above particulars stated that he had no observations to make.

Your Council have again this year approached the Congleton Rural District Council and are now awaiting a further reply.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extensions have taken place but surface water drainage improvement in Sandbach Road and Lodge Road have been carried out.

#### SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

Generally the works have proved satisfactory. Frequent samples of effluent have been taken by the County M.O.H. and a satisfactory analysis of the effluent has resulted.

The removal of humus from the tanks has been facilitated by making a piped connection from the bottom of the tanks direct to one of the sludge pits. This allows more frequent cleansing without additional labour.

The sludge drying beds are operating satisfactorily and the sludge dries out when the bed is allowed to rest and it is then removed by hand and carted away by farmers.

#### CLOSEST ACCOMODATION

No conversion from the conservancy system has taken place. The whole of the privies estimated at 55 are still included in the Contractor's list of premises to be dealt with. These include outlying farms and houses which usually deal with the removal themselves.

The number of houses on the water carriage system is approximately 861 including 48 not connected to the public sewers but which have their own septic tanks and are attended to by the Contractors if and when required.

#### THE REFUSE DUMP.

Regular attention is given to the covering up of the ashes which are now dumped down the face of the tip and the papers etc. when blown about, are frequently collected and destroyed. The tip may now be described as partially controlled.

CRICKETS were again present during the summer but were not quite so numerous as in previous years. Active measures were taken to eradicate the pests by frequent spraying with creosote and paraffin oil which proved very effective and kills them instantly if they come into direct contact. No complaints were received from residents in the area, this year.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS:

No action was taken or necessary.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2016 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28801489>

## FARMS AND DAIRIES:

Frequent inspections are carried out and the improved cleanliness reported in previous years is being maintained.

The animals are generally well looked after and kept clean. The premises also can be reported as in good condition and given proper attention.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

(a) The number of inspections made during the year	482
(b) The number of notices served during the year	88
Statutory Notices:-	
Informal (dwelling houses)	27
General (principally nuisances)	61
(c) The result of the service of such notices.	
Statutory Notices.	0
Informal (dwelling houses)	23 put in order with 4 carried forward.

The 6 cases brought forward from the previous year were dealt with satisfactorily.

Informal notices of general nuisances were all complied with.

## SCHOOLS.

Disinfection by means of hand spraying with formalin vapouriser has been carried out as required.

The infant School drainage has required attention through becoming stopped up and the ~~washing~~ <sup>washing</sup> facilities are out of date.

The Church schools appear to be in order but here again the lavatory basins are not of modern design and the heating of the premises could with advantage be improved.

The water is satisfactory and constant and adequate.

## D. HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

TOTAL 4.

1. By the Local Authority.	0
2. By other Authorities.	0
3. By other bodies or persons	4

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

### 1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:-

1a. Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). 33.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. 73.

2. (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. 11.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 16

3. Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 0

4. Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 2





2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. 23

3. Action under statutory powers during the year.

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936. | 0. |
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts                             | 0  |
| (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936     | 0  |
| (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.            | 0  |

4. Housing Act 1936 Part IV overcrowding.

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year  | 0     |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.   | 0     |
| (c) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report. | NONE. |

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk is distributed in the district under the various designations.

1. Accredited Milk (produced in the District).
2. Tuberculin tested milk (certified).
3. Pasturised Milk.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Inspections have been made regularly of slaughter houses, shops and places where food is prepared and sold.

No action was necessary.

Butchers have been warned against taking offal to the incinerator and not depositing same into the covered receptacles provided.

There are 5 licensed slaughterers in the District.

ADULTERATION. No action was necessary.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This may be carried out at the laboratory of the Royal Infirmary Chester, when original.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep &amp; lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number Killed (approximately)	560	5	30	1022	210
Number inspected.	35	-	17	611	95
No carcasses of animals were condemned.					

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1933.

The resolution of your Council passed in November 1933 applying Sect. 1 of the above Act to the following animals:- Sheep, ewes, wethers, rams and lambs has been resounded during the year.





E. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Infectious Disease during the year 1938.

There were 20 cases of notifiable disease (including Tuberculosis) as follows:-

Tuberculosis (Pulmonary).	2
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary).	3
Pneumonia	3
Diphtheria.	<u>12</u>
	<u>20.</u>

Analysis of total notified cases in age groups.

Years 3 - 4	Pneumonia 1
5 - 10	Diphtheria 11. Tuberculosis (non-Pulm) 2
10 - 15	Tuberculosis (non pulmonary) 1.
20 - 35	Diphtheria 1 Tuberculosis (Pulm) 1 Pneumonia 1
35 - 45	Tuberculosis (pulmonary) 1
45 - 65	Pneumonia 1.

TOTAL 20.

No deaths occurred from Diphtheria.

WEST HEATH

2 cases of suspected Diphtheria were sent to ~~Broadwell~~ Sanatorium for observation but did not give a positive swab.

5 cases of "carriers" giving positive swabs were removed from the schools and sent to Hospital for throat treatment. 4 of these being sent to West Heath Sanatorium and 1 who lived in the Nantwich Rural area to Nantwich Isolation Hospital.

The removal and isolation of these carriers from the schools did much to check the epidemic which amounted only to 12 cases.

Removals of Infectious or suspected infectious cases to Congleton Isolation Hospital during the year. DIPHTHERIA (including carriers) 18 cases.

Hospital accomodation for infectious diseases is sufficient.

TUBERCULOSIS

2 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, one which was a transfer from Hoylake.

3 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

The prevalence of cancer is not abnormal.

There were 5 deaths from it, which is about average rate.

Disinfection of premises, which have been exposed to infection is carried out by the Local Authority. Bedding, clothing etc. are removed to the West Heath Sanatorium for disinfection.

A motor ambulance is provided from there for the conveyance of patients to and from the West Heath Sanatorium.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936 for the prevention of Blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of  
.8.



Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925 or Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the first quarter of the year, leaflets were distributed, requesting the names of those children who desire immunisation against Diphtheria, at the expense of the Council. The response to this was very poor and your Council decided not to proceed further.

Your Council now have agreed to supply the necessary material to those who are unable to pay for it and the names of such are to be submitted to the Council.

During the epidemic your Council supplied the immunising material free to all who desired it. The vaccine T.A.F. (Burroughs Wellcome & Co.) in 3 1cc doses being used.

26 children were then immunised and a record kept on special cards.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY P. HARPUR. M.D.

June 3rd 1939.

